



Code of Ethics and Conduct for US-NYS Chaplain Response Team, Inc.

The US-NYS Chaplain Response Team (US-NYSCRT) is committed to providing spiritual and emotional support to individuals and communities during times of crisis, distress, or need. In fulfilling our mission, we recognize the importance of maintaining the highest ethical standards and upholding the values that guide our work. This Code of Ethics and Conduct outlines the principles, responsibilities, and standards that govern the actions and behavior of chaplains affiliated with the US-NYSCRT.

1. Professional Responsibilities

- **Compassion and Empathy:** Chaplains shall approach their work with compassion, empathy, and respect for the dignity and worth of every individual they serve, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances.
- **Cultural Competence:** Chaplains shall strive to understand and respect the diverse cultural, religious, and spiritual backgrounds of those they serve. They shall seek to provide support that is culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- **Confidentiality:** Chaplains shall maintain strict confidentiality regarding all information shared with them during their interactions with individuals and communities. They shall not disclose any confidential information without explicit consent or when legally obligated to do so.
- **Boundaries:** Chaplains shall establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with the individuals they serve. They shall not exploit their position or engage in any form of harassment, discrimination, or misconduct.
- **Integrity:** Chaplains shall act with integrity and honesty in all professional and personal matters. They shall not engage in fraudulent, deceptive, or unethical practices.
- **Professional Competence:** Chaplains shall continually strive to enhance their skills, knowledge, and competence in providing spiritual and emotional support. They shall engage in ongoing professional development and seek supervision and consultation when needed.

2. Ethical Principles

- **Respect for Autonomy:** Chaplains shall respect the autonomy and self-determination of the individuals they serve. They shall support individuals in making informed decisions about their spiritual and emotional well-being.
- **Non-Discrimination:** Chaplains shall not discriminate against or engage in any form of bias based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic. They shall provide care to all individuals without prejudice.
- **Beneficence and Non-Maleficence:** Chaplains shall strive to promote the well-being and spiritual growth of those they serve while refraining from causing harm. They shall avoid imposing their beliefs on others.



- **Conflict of Interest:** Chaplains shall disclose any conflicts of interest that may compromise their ability to provide impartial support. They shall prioritize the best interests of the individuals and communities they serve.
- **Accountability:** Chaplains shall be accountable for their actions and decisions. They shall acknowledge and rectify any mistakes or ethical breaches promptly and transparently.
- **Compliance with Laws and Regulations:** Chaplains shall comply with all relevant laws and regulations governing their practice. They shall be aware of and adhere to state and national standards for chaplaincy.

Conclusion

The **US-NYS Chaplain Response Team, Inc.** is dedicated to upholding the principles and values outlined in this Code of Ethics and Conduct. Chaplains affiliated with the US-NYSCRT are expected to abide by these standards, ensuring the highest level of professionalism, ethical behavior, and integrity in their service to individuals and communities in need. Violations of this code may result in disciplinary actions, including termination of affiliation with the US-NYSCRT.